

INITIAL STATEMENT OF BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person

Wright, Terrance L.

5241 Spring Mountain Road
Las Vegas, NV 89102
USA

2. Date of Event Requiring Statement (Month/Day/Year)

7/15/97

3. IRS or Social Security Number of Reporting Person (Voluntary)

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4. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol

Southwest Gas Corporation
SWX

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable)

(X) Director () 10% Owner () Officer (give title below) () Other
(specify below)

6. If Amendment, Date of Original (Month/Day/Year)

7. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line)

(X) Form filed by One Reporting Person
() Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

Table I -- Non-Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned

1. Title of Security	2. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned	3. Ownership Form: Direct(D) or Indirect(I)	4. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership
Common Stock	250	D	

Table II -- Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned

1. Title of Derivative Security	2. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)	3. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities	4. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	5. Ownership Form of Derivative Security: Direct(D) or Indirect(I)	6. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership
Stock Option (right to buy)	(1) 7/14/07	Common Stock	1660 \$19.125	D	

Explanation of Responses:

(1) The option vests in three annual installments of 664 in 1998, 498 shares in 1999 and 498 shares in 2000, beginning July 15, 1998.

SIGNATURE OF REPORTING PERSON

Terrance L. Wright by Faye J. Ringler, Attorney in fact

DATE

7/24/97