

ANNUAL STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP

() Check box if no longer subject to Section 16.
 Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instructions 1(b).

() Form 3 Holdings Reported
 () Form 4 Transactions Reported

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person

Cortez, Manuel J.
 5241 Spring Mountain Road
 Las Vegas, NV 89150
 USA

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol

Southwest Gas Corporation
 SWX

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

4. Statement for Month/Year

12/31/2002

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

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

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

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

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

Table I -- Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned

1. Title of Security	2. Transaction Date	3. Code	4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) Amount	A/ D	Price	5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned at End of Year	6. Direct (D) or Indirect (I)	7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership
Common Stock						2,251 (2)	D	

Table II -- Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned

1. Title of Derivative Security	2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	3. Transaction Date	4. Code	5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) Amount	A/ D	6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)	7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities Title and Number of Shares	8. Price of Derivative Security	9. Number of Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned at End of Year	10. Direct (D) or Indirect (I)	11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership
Stock Option (right to buy)	\$24.50	05/09/2002	A	3,000	A	(1) 05/08/2012	Common Stock 3,000		3,000	D	

Explanation of Responses:

(1) The option vests in three annual installments of 1200 shares in 2003, 900 shares in 2004, and 900 shares in 2005, beginning on May 9, 2003.

(2) Includes 80 shares acquired in 2002 pursuant to the dividend reinvestment plan.

SIGNATURE OF REPORTING PERSON

/s/ Manuel J. Cortez by Kathy M. Bailey, Attorney in fact

DATE

02/13/2003