

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP

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

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person

Kropid, James J  
  
 5241 Spring Mountain Road  
 Las Vegas, NV 89103  
 USA

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol

Southwest Gas Corporation

SWX

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

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4. Statement for Month/Year

July 1997

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 Filing (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. Transaction Code	4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) Amount	A/D	Price	5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned at End of Month	6. Direct (D) or Indirect (I)	7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership
Common Stock	7/23/97	P	1,000	A	\$18.50	1,549	I	James J. and
Preferred Stock (2)						1,500	I	Judith A. Kropid
								Family Trust

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. Transaction Code	5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) Amount	6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date Date/Date	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 Month	10. Direct (D) or Indirect (I)	11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership
Stock Option (right to buy)	\$19.125	7/15/97	A	1,660	(1) 7/14/07	Common Stock	1,660	1660	D	

Explanation of Responses:

(1) The option vests in three annual installments of 664 shares in 1998, 498 shares in 1999 and 498 shares in 1000, beginning July 15, 1998.

(2) Southwest Gas Capital I - Trust Originated Preferred Securities

SIGNATURE OF REPORTING PERSON

James J. Kropid by Faye J. Ringler, Attorney in Fact

DATE

8/7/97