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110,000 evacuate in West

■ Four deaths reported;
emergencies declared in
37 California counties.

The rains relented Friday, but floods continued to drench the West, chasing more than 110,000 people to higher ground.

Raging rivers and crumbling levees devastated hundreds of homes, killed at least four people, closed dozens of roads and highways and spawned searing images of heartbreak from people who have had enough.

Thirty-seven of California's 58 counties were operating under states of emergency and disaster workers were straining to handle the largest displacement of residents in years.

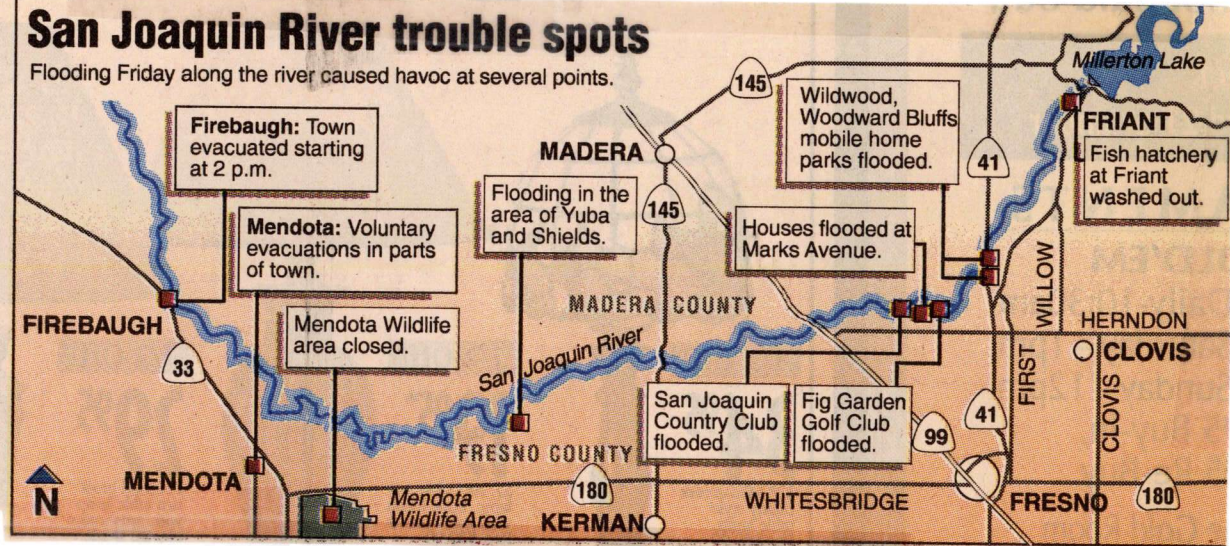
"We were trying to compare this with the Loma Prieta earthquake," said national Red Cross spokeswoman Elizabeth Quirk. "This is even larger than that."

In developments:

■ Gov. Wilson, declaring emergencies in the counties, asked President Clinton to declare the state eligible for

San Joaquin River trouble spots

Flooding Friday along the river caused havoc at several points.



West: Wilson declares emergencies in 37 counties

On the road

■ **Interstate 5** — Closed northbound at Highway 12 due to flooding; limited use southbound at that point.

■ **Interstate 80** — For eastbound traffic, chains or snow tires are required on all vehicles from Kingvale to 11 miles east of Truckee; For westbound traffic, chains or snow tires required from 11 miles west of the Nevada state line to Truckee; Westbound trucks are being screened 10 miles east of the California state line, drivers must have chains to proceed.

■ **U.S. 50** — Closed from Pollock Pines to Meyers in El Dorado County because of flooding.

■ **U.S. 101** — Closed about 7 miles south of the Humboldt/Del Norte county line because of a slide; closed about 7 miles north of the Humboldt/Del Norte county line because of flooding.

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federal disaster relief.

■ In Reno, some casinos removed sandbags from doorways and reopened, and scores of residents shoveled mud from homes Friday following the city's worst flooding in more than 40 years. But three casinos remained closed.

Reno/Tahoe International Airport, forced to close Thursday by raging floodwaters, reopened Friday afternoon, allowing some of the thousands of stranded tourists to begin returning home. But all of Delta Air Lines' flights between Fresno and Reno were canceled Thursday. Service resumes this morning.

■ The Tuolumne River near Modesto was expected to top 68 feet early this morning — 13 feet above flood level.

Its wide swath from Don Pedro Dam through Modesto to the San Joaquin River displaced people in many ways. Four hundred people spent Friday night in shelters in Modesto and Waterford and an unknown number of others joined family or friends or found other lodging.

■ In Wilton, south of Sacramento on the Cosumnes River, residents who fled flooding Thursday slogged home to find

most of the water gone — but plenty of damage left behind. Judy Boone arrived home to find 28 dead sheep pressed against her fence.

Her neighbor, Eric Andrews, found mud all over his parents' home. "It's almost an invasion of privacy," Andrews said as he cleaned. "The hardest loss was the family pictures, because you can't replace those."

■ Many roads around Northern California remained closed due to mudslides or washouts. U.S. 50 near Pollock Pines and U.S. 395 north of Lee Vining were expected to remain closed a substantial time due to damage. Interstate 80 over Donner Summit reopened Friday.

Officials had no estimates Friday of the damage statewide, but floodwaters were still rising in many areas.

Elsewhere:

■ Thousands were being evacuated, including hundreds in Franklin, where the Tuolumne River was rising rapidly.

■ Residents in Sutter County near the Bear River also were being evacuated as flood-control officials breached a levee along the Feather River to prevent flooding from swamping Sacramento International Airport.

■ Storm runoff from Yosemite National Park was rushing into Lake McClure at the rate of 83,000 cubic feet per second and raising the water level more than a foot an hour. McClure stood within 5 percent of capacity of Friday night.

■ Floodwaters overwhelmed Modesto's sewage treatment plant, leaving city residents under a request not to flush or to do unnecessary washing. A health advisory was issued by the Stanislaus County Office of Emergency Services warning people not to drink from or swim in the floodwaters.

Four deaths were reported:

■ Julie Danielson, a 33-year-old Ahwahnee woman, drowned when water washing over Leonard Road south of Mariposa swept away the pickup in which she was a passenger.

■ A 57-year-old Knights Landing man who died at a Red Cross shelter in Woodland.

■ Donald Loyce Shiptet, 37, of Redding, who was found dead in his 1989 Jeep, which was upside down and underwater in the rushing Burney Creek, with only one tire visible.

■ Robert Ryan was found dead in Trinity County after his car was washed away.