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# Levees on Madera side still broken, vulnerable

**By Dennis Pollock**  
The Fresno Bee

Breaks in the levee along the San Joaquin River have been patched on the Fresno County side, but some cracks remained on the Madera County side late Thursday.

Agricultural commissioners in both counties share concerns that additional water releases from Millerton Lake could trigger renewed flooding of agricultural land.

Madera County agricultural commissioner Bob Rolan said an unknown number of breaks remain along the Madera County side of the river, one of them nearly 350 feet long.

"There's still water running out of at least one break," he said.

Dennis Plann, Fresno County's deputy agricultural commissioner, said work crews at the Bar 20 Dairy, west of Kerman, have trucked in tons of dirt and patched breaks near the ranch.

Among the legacies of last week's flooding is a delay in harvesting or tilling in some areas, including Kings County, which appears to have escaped damage

sustained in other Valley counties.

The recent rains have added further to the woes of broccoli growers, compounding problems caused by autumn precipitation.

Tim Baloian, president of Fresno-based Baloian Packing Co., said those rains forced his company to leave half its broccoli crop in fields near Fresno and Yettlem after Thanksgiving.

The good news is that the citrus harvest has resumed.

With some acreage under water in the counties surveyed, damage estimates remain in the early stages:

■ **Fresno County:** Unknown extent of damage caused by prunings washed into orchards and mired in mud.

■ **Madera County:** \$200,000 in damage to bee hives near Avenue 14 at Chowchilla Canal.

■ Possibly a half dozen breaks remain in levees along the San Joaquin River.

■ **Kings County:** Harvest delays on 4,000 acres of cotton.

■ Planting delays on undetermined acreage of wheat and alfalfa.

■ **Tulare County:** No new damage estimates.