

Potential Tropical Cyclone Seventeen-E

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SUMMARY

A tropical wave moved from the western Caribbean Sea, across Central America and into the far eastern North Pacific on 13–14 October. A broad area of low pressure formed in association with the system just to the west of Nicaragua on 14 October. Over the next day or so, deep convection became a little better organized around the low, which was moving west-northwestward to the south of Guatemala on 15 October. Satellite wind data indicated that the strongest winds were near 30 kt, however, the low lacked a well-defined center of circulation. Since the probability of tropical cyclone formation was high, and the system appeared likely to become a tropical storm by the time it reached the coast of Mexico, advisories were initiated on the tropical disturbance, and a Tropical Storm Watch was issued for a portion of the coast of eastern Mexico at 0300 UTC 16 October. The disturbance moved northwestward along the southwestern side of a mid-level ridge, with no further development. In fact, the coverage and organization of deep convection decreased as the system neared the coastline, and the low-level circulation became less defined, with multiple swirls embedded within the low. The poorly-defined center of the low moved inland over the Mexican state of Oaxaca, between Bahias de Huatulco and Salina Cruz, around 1300 UTC 16 October, and the low dissipated later that day. This system produced locally heavy rains and flooding over portions of Central America and eastern Mexico and 4 deaths over El Salvador. A rainfall total of 15.8 inches (401.4 mm) was reported at Morro de Mazatlan, Oaxaca, and a wind gust to 36 kt was reported at Salina Cruz, Oaxaca, around 1200 UTC 16 October.

A track of the disturbance, which follows the area of lowest pressure and the low-level vorticity maximum is given in Table 1. Coastal watches and warnings associated with the disturbance are provided in Table 2.

Table 1. Best track for Potential Tropical Cyclone Seventeen-E, 16 October 2019.

Date/Time (UTC)	Latitude (°N)	Longitude (°W)	Pressure (mb)	Wind Speed (kt)	Stage
16 / 0000	13.8	93.3	1005	30	disturbance
16 / 0600	15.0	94.5	1005	30	"
16 / 1200	15.8	95.7	1005	30	"
16 / 1800					dissipated

Table 2. Watch and warning summary for Potential Tropical Cyclone Seventeen-E, 16 October 2019.

Date/Time (UTC)	Action	Location
16 / 0300	Tropical Storm Watch issued	Barra de Tonalá to Puerto Escondido
16 / 1800	Tropical Storm Watch discontinued	All