EJSG One-page Threshold Eligibility Form

This form will be used primarily to determine if you meet all the eligibility requirements. You must address the following areas:

1) **Applicant Eligibility.**

Common Ground Relief is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization located in New Orleans, Louisiana, where the proposed project will be located. The proposed project will take place primarily in New Orleans' Lower Ninth Ward, where Common Ground Relief maintains its office, volunteer housing and native plant nursery.

Common Ground Relief (CGR) has worked with residents of Greater New Orleans area and specifically in the Lower Ninth Ward on a variety of projects including coastal and urban environmental stewardships education and restoration projects. Since its inception in 2005, CGR has worked with the Lower Ninth Ward residents to address prevailing environmental and public health issues including flooding, coastal erosion and soil contaminants. Major initiatives include: (1) the restoration of the Cypress Triangle, a 400-acre cypress "ghost-swamp," which abuts the northern edge of New Orleans' Lower Ninth Ward; (2) construction of the Common Ground Relief Native Plant Nursery II, which serves as a growth site for all plant materials needed and an educational facility for its environmental programming; and (3) tree canopy replacement between rights of way and sidewalks in conjunction with the city of New Orleans' approved tree list. CGR also partnered with Groundwork New Orleans on "The Green Slice: Restoring an Urban Neighborhood Watershed through Research and Education" project that was funded by a 2013 EPA Small Justice Grant. The Green Slice project engaged members of the Lower Ninth Ward community in green infrastructure design, job training, skills building, learning, and knowledge production.

2) **Qualified Environmental Statutes.** Below is a list of qualified environmental statutes. You must identify at least one of the qualified environmental statutes associated with your project.

The Common Ground Relief Environmental Youth Education and Outreach Program, which seeks to improve water quality in the Greater New Orleans area, is associated with the Clean Water Act, Section 104(b) (3)

3) **Eligible Activities**. The project must carry out eligible activities under one of the above referenced environmental statutes. Explain how the project is tied to the local environmental/public health issue in the affected community (see Section I. C).

In alignment with the Clean Water Act, Section 104(b) (3), the proposed project is designed to improve water quality through the prevention, reduction, and elimination of water pollution. This project will integrate the following activities that are authorized by this federal environmental statute: conduct and promote the coordination of youth and adult educational activities, investigations, training, surveys, and demonstration projects, relating to the causes, effects, extent, prevention, reduction, and elimination of water pollution.