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**Ecology & Parks Committee**

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**SB 6504**

**Brief Description:** Exempting certain minor new construction associated with construction storm water general permits from SEPA.

**Sponsors:** Senators Hatfield, Swecker, Delvin, Regala, Schoesler, Morton, Pridemore and Rasmussen; by request of Department of Ecology.

**Brief Summary of Bill**

- Exempts certain construction storm water projects from the State Environmental Policy Act.

**Hearing Date:** 2/20/08

**Staff:** Jaclyn Ford (786-7339).

**Background:**

In 2005 the Department of Ecology (DOE) issued a new construction storm water general permit to meet the requirements of the Clean Water Act. The permit requires construction projects that disturb one or more acres of land to get a storm water permit from the DOE before the start of construction. Because of the permit requirement, local governments are required to do a State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) review of the project. A SEPA review requires an environmental impact statement be written in order for the project to begin.

**Summary of Bill:**

A new construction storm water project does not need to have a SEPA review if it disturbs less than five acres. The exemption does not occur if the project is being constructed in an environmentally sensitive area.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Available.

**Effective Date:** The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

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