

# A P A

*The Engineered Wood Association*

January 13, 2003

Bay Area Retrofit  
Attn: Howard Cook  
154 Collins Street  
Richmond, CA 94801

Dear Mr. Cook:

First, I would like to thank you for allowing me to provide comments on the various different retrofit strategies you and your committee have forwarded to our office. Perhaps your committee will find our opinions helpful in making the final retrofit strategy recommendations.

Based on my professional opinion, I would judge the retrofit strategies in the following order, from most preferred to least preferred.

- 1.) Flush-cut mudsill method
- 2.) Reverse block method
- 3.) Stapled blocking method
- 4.) Nailed blocking method

I have chosen to order the retrofit strategies based on several reasons. First, the flush-cut mudsill and the reverse block method are the closest retrofit strategies to a conventionally built shear wall. Hence I have a great deal of confidence in either of these methods. I believe the flush cut method would be more practical for most retrofits, but the reverse block method would be an acceptable alternative.

Multiple nails through the face of the small blocks greatly increase the splitting potential of the small wood blocks. Nails tend to split wood worse than staples. I believe the stapled block method is preferred over the nailed blocking method. An alternative to either of these methods might be to use 1/4" self drilling/self tapping lag screws.

In summary, on paper, all of the retrofit strategies are acceptable. I am of the opinion that my itemized list above is a reasonable ranking of the four methods.

I hope you find this information useful.

Sincerely,

[Name withheld by engineer request (too many phone calls)]

Technical Services Division