Straighten Load Bearing Studs

Code:  2018 Residential Code
Sections:  R601.2, Table R602.3(1)

Question:
Sometimes we have studs that are bowed. Is there a method to straighten out these studs that would not require an engineer’s evaluation?

Answer:
Yes. The contractor can straighten out bowed studs without the need for an engineer’s evaluation by following one of the methods below.

1. Install a stud next to the bowed stud and fasten the two studs together using the “Double Studs” detail in Table R602.3(1).

2. Install a braced wood horizontal member in a notched-out section of the bowed stud connecting it to the two adjacent studs (see picture). The notched-out section in the bowed stud should not create gaps greater than 1/8 inch. Notches also cannot exceed the limits of R602.6. Do not notch-out consecutive studs in a load bearing wall. Notch no more than 25% of the studs in a given wall.

Keywords: bracing, horizontal bracing