Alternate braced wall panels constructed in accordance with one of the following provisions are also permitted to replace each 4-feet of braced wall panel as required by Section R602.10.4 for use adjacent to a window or door opening with a full-length header:

1. In one-story buildings, each panel shall have a length of not less than 16-inches and a height not more than 10-ft. Each panel shall be sheathed on one face with a single layer of 3/8-inch minimum thickness wood structural panel sheathing nailed with 8d common or galvanized box nails in accordance to Figure R602.10.6.2. The wood panel shall extend up over the solid sawn or glue-laminated header and shall be nailed in accordance to the figure. Use of a built-up header consisting of at least two 2 x 12's, fastened in accordance with Table R602.3.1 shall be permitted where approved. The header shall extend between the inside faces of the first full-length outer studs of each panel. The clear span of the header between the inner studs of each panel shall not be less than 6-ft and not more than 18-ft in length. A strap with an uplift capacity of not less than 1000 lbs shall fasten the header to the side of the inner studs opposite the sheathing. One anchor bolt not less than 5/8” diameter shall be installed in the center of each sill plate. The studs at each end of the panel shall have a tie-down device fastened to the foundation with an uplift capacity of not less than 4200 lbs. Tie-down devices shall be an embedded strap type, installed in accordance with the manufacturer’s recommendations. The panels shall be supported directly on a foundation which is continuous across the entire length reinforced with not less than one-#4 bar top and bottom.

2. In the first story of a 2-story, each wall panel shall be braced in accordance with item #1 above, except that each panel shall have a length of not less than 24-inches.

This bracing method require fastening to the foundation and cannot be used in the upper floors of two- or three-story structures.