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Existing condition verification for alterations and the removal of fenestration

I am a CalCERTS certified HERS rater (9 years) who frequently performs field verifications of existing conditions before construction (CF-3R EXC-20) which sometimes includes fenestration areas being upgraded. I have often been asked by my clients: if a window is being completely removed rather than upgraded, can they get credit in the performance calculation for the removal of the window. I understand that the answer is no, but I think that should be reconsidered in this context of "verified existing conditions" as, a wall with a removed window performs better than a wall with an upgraded window. If I am out certifying existing conditions, why can I also not certify that a certain square footage of a certain type of window exists on this existing wall which will later be altered and the window removed? I would think this is valuable credit for the removal of fenestration especially if it is on a southern or western exposure.